

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – Immediately following Budget and Finance

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting – Immediately following Facilities and Transportation

Administration Building – Board Room

MINUTES

Present

Board: Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Tomasco

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Gina Ross

Press: 0

Audience: 2

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meetings to order at 6:32 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker turned the meeting over to Mr. Driscoll

3.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none

3.03 Approval of Section 3 of the agenda relating to Budget and Finance

3.04 Approval of Minutes

With no discussion the minutes were approved

3.05 Bills for Payment

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,232,783.64, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$197,228.55, and Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$5,484.25.

Mr. Driscoll explained that the bill list was attached and would be larger at the end of the month.

3.06 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly financial report for December 2021, informational financial report for January and Budget Transfers.

Mr. Driscoll advised the Board that if there were any questions to let him know.

3.07 Administrative Trip

MOTION: To approve Teresa Ferry, Administration of Federal Programs, to attend Pennsylvania Association Federal Program Coordinators 2022 Annual Conference from April 3 to April 6, 2022 in Champions, Pennsylvania. The cost of the conference is \$380.00. The total cost of the trip not to exceed \$1,260.00.

Mr. Driscoll explained that there may be an additional person attending.

3.08 2021 Tax Appeal

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on folio 25-00-03526-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$490,000 assessment/\$490,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$99,290 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,089 to our District for tax year 2021.

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on folio 25-00-04623-07 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$525,000 assessment/\$525,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$39,760 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$436 to our District for tax year 2021.

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on folio 25-00-03589-01 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$2,950,000 assessment/\$2,950,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$446,660 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$4,899 to our District for tax year 2021.

Mr. Driscoll explained that these appeals will be seen for the next year or so. Any questions let him know.

Mr. Driscoll also explained that we are in a normal budget process for next year due to the resolution not to exceed the Index.

3.09 Public Comment

There was none

3.10 Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 6:35

4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

4.01 Committee Report – Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., Chairperson

4.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none

4.03 Approval of Section 4 of the agenda relating to Facilities and Transportation

4.04 Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved

4.05 Worrall Elementary School Renovations and Additions Project

Mr. Bonnett from Bonnett Associates gave a brief overhaul of the project:

- Gave presentation at the FNT meeting in November
- The concept for the project was presented at that time
- Met with Dr. Kane and the Administration
- Work around the demographic study done by Sundance
- Need to go over the options ~ different cost
- Board meeting to approve project cost to meet Act 34

Mr. Medica gave the following presentation:

- Touched base on the demographic study
- Took data from the fall
- Worrall right now under capacity
- Programs working under constraints
- Number not changing, programs are
- Showed front and back of building
- Explained drop off ~ major issue

- Connection to Highland Avenue, gates and speed bumps
- No access from Highland Avenue at drop off
- Parking adjustments to fields on the weekends
- Separate parking for drop off
- Separate bus and drop off loops
- Explained the kitchen and café
- Explained the additional classrooms
- Kindergarten playground moved to the back of the building
- Walking path to Highland Avenue
- Landscaping and Lighting to be addressed
- No woods would be touched
- Trees in front of the building could be removed
- Option A ~ 3 floors, lower level. Option B ~ 2 floors
- Rework main office with security and health space
- Library new addition
- Gym, no stage
- Cafeteria ~ expand out for stage
- 2nd floor classrooms
- Working on skin of the building
- Roof-window replacement
- Handicap stage and HVAC replaced
- IT upgraded
- Explained cost

4.06 Discussion Items - Future Capital Projects:

Mr. Gallagher ~ explained the following:

- 1) Paving of the bus garage~ looking to pave the bus parking area ~ pot holes ~ putting in 2 inch mill, tanks have about 8 to 10 years remaining. This would hold us the 5 or 8 years until fully renovated. Will work on numbers to have the area renovated sooner than later.
- 2) Gauntlet Center parking lot extension ~ grass area near West Chester Pike ~ blacktop for transportation staff.
- 3) High School Painting project ~ preventative maintenance ~ chillers are going to be out of warranty ~ paint the large areas, cafeteria, hallways, gyms.

4.07 Additions and Renovations to Culbertson Elementary School

Stan Roch Plumbing, Inc.

Change Order No. PC-04 Summary:

COR X01 Ceiling Tile Replacement Backcharge

John S. McManus, Inc. was directed to replace ceiling tiles that were damaged during construction. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc.

proposal dated 1/7/2021 in the amount of \$3,427.00. Stan Roch Plumbing, Inc.'s portion of this work is \$839.62 based upon walk through by Bonnett Associates, Inc. and Marple Newtown School District.

COR X02 Kitchen Floor Trough Non-Conforming Credit

A new kitchen floor trough was not installed square to the kitchen room layout. Stan Roch Plumbing, Inc. offered a non-conforming credit of \$2,500.00 in lieu of removing and reinstalling the trough drain.

Change Order PC-04 Total: CREDIT \$3,339.62

4.08 Athletic Field Renovations at Marple Newtown High School

Uhrig Construction, Inc.

Change Order No. GC-01 Summary:

COR 02.1 Concrete Pads for JV Dugouts

Revision to provide concrete pads at both JV Baseball and JV Softball home and visitor dugouts. Costs for work associated with BAI drawing SK-AS130.1 dated 1/4/22 per Uhrig Construction, Inc. proposal dated 1/17/22 in the amount of \$21,054.64.

COR 05.3 Water Main Material Change

As a result of limited material availability of the specified 3-inch PVC SDR-35 piping for the water main from the fieldhouse to the point of connection to the existing water service, Pennoni Associates, Inc. recommended a change from the specified pipe to 4-inch C-900 pipe to reduce lead time for materials to arrive on site. Costs for the material change per Uhrig Construction, Inc. proposal dated 2/1/22 in the amount of \$1,907.45.

COR 06.3 Sewer Main Material Change

As a result of limited material availability of the specified 4-inch PVC SDR-35 piping for the forced sewer main from the fieldhouse to the point of connecting to the existing sewer system, Pennoni Associates, Inc. recommended a change from the specified pipe to 4-inch C-900 pipe to reduce lead time for materials to arrive on site. This pipe will also better accommodate the requirements of the forced main sewer system. Costs for the material change per Uhrig Construction, Inc. proposal dated 2/1/22 in the amount of \$3,991.84.

COR 08 Water Lateral from Fieldhouse to Spigot Material Change

As a result of limited material availability of the specified 3-inch PVC SDR-35 piping for the water lateral from the fieldhouse to the new spigot at the JV baseball field, Pennoni Associates, Inc. recommended a change from the specified pipe to 2-inch Poly pipe to reduce lead time for materials to arrive on site. Costs for the material

change per Uhrig Construction, Inc. proposal dated 2/1/22 in the amount of \$7,620.20

Change Order GC-01 Total: \$34,574.13

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval

Mr. Gallagher explained that the project is going good ~ some delays with the weather and materials. Seem to be getting back on track

4.09 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

MOTION: To approve the purchase of the following vehicles in the total estimated amount of \$296,423.60 (estimated price per vehicle is \$37,052.95) from Pacifico Marple Ford, and to approve the necessary transfer from capital improvement and the budgetary reserve. Prices are in accordance with Co-Stars Contract No. 026-097. (Once the 2023 ordering window is defined and available along with the 2023 pricing; an updated motion with actual values will be presented to formal approval to purchase the vehicles at those exact values):

Quantity (8) = 2023 Ford Transit - AWD Passenger Vans – Transportation

Mr. Orwig explained that the lead-time for ordering is the reason for this motion. Could take several months to have the vehicles delivered. Will update the Board during the process.

4.10 Vehicle Removal from Inventory

MOTION: To authorize the trade-in of the following eight (8) vehicles at a combined total value to be determined at the time of the trade-in date:

Vehicle #202: 2013 Ford	VIN# 1FMNE1BW6DDA49552
Vehicle #203: 2016 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG9FR625686
Vehicle #207: 2013 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2CR4DGBG4DR600739
Vehicle #208: 2014 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG8ER180968
Vehicle #200: 2016 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG2GR353631
Vehicle #204: 2018 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG3HR855694
Vehicle #209: 2018 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG6JR192210
Vehicle #205: 2018 Dodge Caravan	VIN# 2C4RDGBG8JR192211

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval

4.11 Other Business

There was none

4.12 Public Comment

Community member wanted to ask a question about Worrall. On those proposals what is the capacity when done? When decided if there is a capacity of 974, that would be 500 plus spaces and unless you are going to redistrict that seems a lot of space.

Mr. Bilker responded ~ Not ready to have that conversation. When we did Culbertson there was a recommendation to do a certain amount of classrooms and we thought maybe we should do more in the backend. Right now, thank goodness we did because we are using those classrooms. I would rather be cautious about classrooms, not to overbuild or make the biggest addition just in case. One of the things that the Board has express interest in the future, a full day Kindergarten and in the future if we make that decision we need to make sure that we have the classrooms. The other question is what are the capital needs in the school district moving forward. The Administration building is in good shape, the high school is in good shape, Loomis and Culbertson are obviously in good shape. We have 3 buildings, Russell, Worrall, and Paxon. Worrall needs a renovation and it needs an expansion, Paxon needs a renovation, not necessarily an expansion, Russell may need a renovation and maybe an expansion. When we are weighing these options part of my consideration will be, does it make sense to do a huge addition here, make sure we figure out where kids are in the future or does it make sense to do a smaller option and follow up with a renovation to Russell or Paxon.

Community member ~ I totally follow that, it would be helpful if you guys made a presentation that if you do a full day Kindergarten these are the number of classrooms we would need. The concern I have here is when I went to Newtown Township to argue the Culbertson renovation I had numbers to prove that the school would be at capacity the following year and we needed to step on it. Now with the capacity being way up and the enrollment is well below that, now saying that we have programmatic issues, we did that at Culbertson and I spoke to Pete before hand and he said we took that into account when we did Culbertson and the result is when added a couple hundred capacity numbers we are now at 73 extra. If we end up with 300/400 extra, I think the Board has to say this is how we justify that.

Mr. Bilker ~ I don't disagree with you on that. If we have to explain why we are voting in 2 weeks I think that we will be prepared for that.

Community member ~ Hopefully we can have some sort mini presentation so that we are prepared for this down the road. My second thing is that student enrollment went up 2.3% after the demographic study several years ago. Expenses went up 4.3%. With inflation of 1.75% and student growth, not a perfect collation but it still works. The nice thing is that we as taxpayers didn't have to pay the 4.3% every year and the reason for that is because the revenue was offset by growth in our revenue base. After the new demographic study shows even more students. With inflation our expenses will even be higher. Now that the building has slowed down and the permits are back to what they were several years ago, my question is how are we going to pay for this. What do you see as this Board for taxpayers to pay with all of the work that you plan to do. Don't see how you can keep it down at 2.6% anymore. Even at the present index of 3.4%

Mr. Bilker ~ I have spoken to Mr. Driscoll about the budget for next year. I asked him what if we do this, he said that he cannot tell me, so over the next 5 years you can't make that prediction.

Community member ~ so how do we pay for this?

Mr. Driscoll's microphone was going in and out so it was hard to hear. He did say that there was one exception left and that is Special Ed that we get sometimes. The retirement exception is phased out by design and we are at the peak with that cost. We can do a five-year projection, but let's face it, my crystal ball is no better than anyone else.

Mr. Bilker explained the challenge that they have on the Board. When I came on the school Board, Mr. Driscoll had a chart that showed 20% of every dollar went to PSERS. Five years later it was 35%. We had a lot of growth early on. Your points are valid, but we are in a good spot. Look around other towns, they don't have the growth that we have, they are over burden with taxes, their buildings are falling down. They don't have a Capital Reserve or Budgetary Reserve. It is always going to be a challenge, how do we manage a budget that is as fair as possible to the taxpayer, keeping up with state educational, keeping up with our buildings, making sure that our staff is alright.

Community member ~ I am not saying that it is not good here. We do have a growth of 2.6% that other districts do not have. The 2.6% growth is interior growth. It is not from Lisiter anymore, projects have leveled out. We are still paying going forward and inflation is picking up. Inflation and student growth may be too much for this district, that is what concerns me.

4.13 Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

5.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

5.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none

5.03 Approval of Section 5 of the agenda relating to Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

5.04 Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved

5.05 Discussion Items

- 1) High School schedule update. Presentation of consultant's audit and considerations for next steps.

Dr. DiBartolomeo gave the following presentation:

- Met with scheduling consultant Elliot Merenbloom
- Have a committee of teachers and administrators
- A six week audit of the MNHS schedule
- Recommendations, benefits, and limitations
- No anticipated change in the number of full-time educators
- The next steps ~ Transition from committee to small groups of teachers for further exploration
- If approved, schedule changes would be implemented at the start of the 2023-2024 school year

2) IT Security Assessment

Chris Lee explained the following:

- Has been 5 years since our last audit where we received good marks
- We did things to sure up any findings in that audit
- Company would launch an intrusion and the IT department would have to respond and we would be graded on that response
- Cyber attaches are a daily occurrence
- Security is complex everyday

5.06 Technology

MOTION: To approve Xerox IT Services to perform an IT Security Assessment at a cost of \$8,095.65.

5.07 Clubs

MOTION: To approve the Marple Newtown High School Horror Literature Club. The purpose of this club is to provide more inclusivity to those interested in horror based interests/topics. Students can share and participate in debates or discussions of films/stories being viewed. The club advisor is William Cawley.

5.08 Disposal of Books

MOTION: To approve the disposal of the attached list of books from the Culbertson Elementary School Library.

MOTION: To approve the disposal of the attached list of books from the Loomis Elementary School Library.

5.09 Administrative Trips

MOTION: To approve Dr. Tina Kane, Superintendent, to attend the 2022 Women's Caucus Conference from May 22, 2022 to

May 24, 2022 at the Hershey Hotel in Hershey, Pennsylvania.
The cost of the conference is \$439.00. The cost of lodging is \$522.00. The total cost to the District is \$961.00.

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval

5.10 Other Business

There was none

5.11 Public Comment

Community member wanted to talk about the high school schedule. I was the Guinea pig for the model 26 years ago and I think it is great. Just make sure that the teachers have in-service to be prepared. Also, my daughter is in 5th grade and there are no longer letter grades. Going into 6th grade and getting a number grade and understanding that.

Dr. DiBartolomeo explained that the administration has met and they will be explaining this to the students in an orientation at the end of the year as well as the beginning of next year. We want them to have a good understanding of their grades.

5.12 Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.